

WYCOMBE AVENGE LAST SEASON'S 6-0 THRASHING

Leytonstone 1, Wycombe Wanderers 2

THIS SUCCESS over the current Amateur Cup holders held a double reward for Wanderers. Not only did they register their first away win of the season but Wycombe wiped out the bitter memory of the 6-0 drubbing they suffered on their last visit to Leytonstone back in April.

The ease with which Wycombe gained their two points was certainly surprising. On only one occasion did Leytonstone produce anything like the calibre of football which took them to Wembley, and from that move they scored.

Wycombe were without the services of Julian Lailey but had a capable deputy in Lou Temel, who, came through his Isthmian League baptism with honours.

As usual, Wanderers lined-up in their now increasingly familiar 4-2-4 formation with Temel the only change from the side that lost so narrowly at Hitchin.

However, the first 45 minutes proved to be dull and lacking any science. Whether or not it was the heat which affected the players is a matter for debate, but it would be kinder to pretend that the first half did not take place.

OFF-TARGET

Passes went astray with regular monotony, the shooting was woefully off-target and the biggest cheer raised in the first 45 minutes was when the referee blew for half-time.

Both teams lacked a "general" in mid-field who could dictate the pattern of the play and the players showed an acute lack of constructive thinking when in possession.

But, the second period provided a complete transformation. Wanderers moved with a new crispness about their work and while Leytonstone had raised the tempo of their game they still looked slack and casual about their approachwork.

The match was literally crying out for a goal to set it alight and Wanderers came up with the goods only five minutes after the re-start.

Gale lofted a hopeful centre into the Leytonstone 18-yard area where Horseman was being carefully watched by Siggins and Moffatt. Surprisingly the two defenders stood off and waited as Horseman pulled the ball down under control.

Horseman slipped round Moffatt's tackle, eluded the frantic efforts of goalkeeper Mackie and right-footed his shot past Siggins on the line.

Maskell was brought into action as he saved Wanderers by flicking over Diwell's header as

Leytonstone hunted for the equaliser. The match was now beginning to become interesting as the home side whipped themselves into greater efforts.

Although Leytonstone pressed it was, in fact, Wycombe who scored next in the 58th minute. Samuels, suffering from a slight knock, slotted a dangerous pass down the middle for Merrick to pursue.

Both centre-half Thompson and keeper Mackie were aware of the danger — yet Merrick reached the ball first and lobbed it home on the first bounce, from the edge of the area, into an unguarded net.

GRAY GOES CLOSE

This set-back really pushed Leytonstone into action and Maskell did well to reach a snap shot on the turn from England international Ken Gray.

As the pressure mounted it became more obvious that Dave Thomas was not looking happy. He appeared short of stamina and his distribution was poor. Temel was plugging the gaps cleverly while Rundle shone with his work in the air.

The inevitable goal came in the 70th minute. Diwell made ground down the left wing and his head-high centre was guided past Maskell by Roberts.

Although heartened by this breakthrough the Leytonstone forwards were not to pierce the Wanderers' defence again. Four minutes from the end Worley left the field and Dick Honeyman substituted.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, L. Temel, V. Faulkner; C. Gale; B. Baker, D. Thomas; L. Worley, K. Samuels, A. Horseman, L. Merrick, Sub.: D. Honeyman.

Leytonstone 1 Wycombe 2

AMATEUR CUP winners Leytonstone were beaten for the first time this season by a Wycombe side who were a yard faster to the ball and who had the suspect Leytonstone defence in frequent tangles.

A brilliant solo goal from inside left Tony Horseman put Wycombe ahead just after the interval and a few minutes later left winger Les Merrick hit the second.

Centre forward Jim Roberts pulled one back 20 minutes from time, but Wycombe resisted a fierce Leytonstone revival.